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President's Newsletter (2012-2016)

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### President's Newsletter

Brooks Keel

*Georgia Southern University*

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## President's Newsletter

Georgia Southern University

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### **Student Spotlight: Christopher Combs**

I am extremely proud of all of Georgia Southern's students, but would like to highlight one that is doing some outstanding work in Writing & Linguistics. Georgia Southern senior Christopher Combs, of Fayetteville, N.C., will receive this year's Brittany "Ally" Harbuck Scholarship award during a reading and reception this Thursday.

Combs' winning submission was a collection of 10 poems

### **Georgia Southern Awarded Race to the Top Grant by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal**

Georgia Southern University has been named the recipient of an Innovation Fund Grant by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal. The science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) grant, which is estimated at approximately \$700,000 during two years, will fund a unique partnership between the University, seven area research institutes and six school districts covering 27 counties in southern Georgia. Georgia Southern will utilize the grant to fund the partnership known as "Real STEM." The project will develop hands-on STEM learning modules related to the environmental concerns of Georgia's coastal region. This is the first Innovation Fund Grant that has been awarded to the University. [Read more...](#)



### **Faculty Spotlight: Three Named 2012 Governor's Teaching Fellows**

Three Georgia Southern University faculty members have been named Governor's Teaching Fellows. Sabrina Ross, assistant professor in



### **Athletic Director Search Update**

I recently announced that Georgia Southern has named a 10-member search committee to recommend candidates to become the next director of athletics. Members of the search committee include individuals

he wrote in professor Eric Nelson's poetry writing class in spring 2012. The poems reflect a range of subjects, from serious to playful, including "What the Night Dreams," "Fifty-two Card Pick-up the Family Pieces" and "Blank Page Phobia."

Combs is the fourth recipient of the scholarship endowed by David and Debi Harbuck of Savannah, Ga., to honor their daughter, who died in a traffic accident in April 2005. The Harbuck Scholarship supports sophomore, junior and senior writing majors with at least a 3.0 GPA in their writing courses.

Congratulations to Christopher on this outstanding accomplishment.

the Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading and June Joyner, an instructor in the Department of Writing & Linguistics were selected for the Summer Symposium Program for 2012. Steve Vives, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Biology and professor of biology, has been selected for the 2012-2013 Academic Year Symposia Program. As Governor's Teaching Fellows, they will work with other outstanding professors from institutions across the state. Please join me in congratulating each of these outstanding faculty members!

from the University's faculty and staff, the Statesboro community, alumni of the University and a student athlete. The search committee includes individuals that represent a wide range of perspectives and I am confident that they will help the University identify and recommend the best candidates to lead Georgia Southern Athletics. Georgia Southern has also selected Parker Executive Search based in Atlanta, Ga., to assist the University as a consultant. Parker Search is the world's leading executive search firm in collegiate athletics. [Read more...](#)

#### **ON THE CALENDAR:**

**July 4:** University closed for Independence Day Holiday.

**September 8:** Georgia Southern Football @ The Citadel

**September 11:** A Day for Southern (Statesboro/Bulloch County)

Concert with Pianist Roger McVey - Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

**September 13:** Third Annual Henderson Library Farm to Table Dinner [More info...](#)

Savannah Young Alumni, After Hours [More info...](#)

Columbus Southern Women Social [More info...](#)

Greater Birmingham Alumni Network Gathering [More info...](#)

GSU Music Department Faculty Showcase [More info...](#)

**September 18:** Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright [Read more...](#)

**September 22:** Georgia Southern Football vs. Elon

**September 28:** Georgia Southern Planetarium - Autumn Skies and Lamps of Atlantis

**September 28-30:** Fall Family Weekend [Read more...](#)

**September 29:** Georgia Southern Football vs. Samford

For more information on University events, please visit the [University Calendar](#).



### **Southern Pride To-Go to Inject School Spirit into Statesboro on Friday Nights**

If you were in a Statesboro restaurant or hangout this past Friday, you may have been startled by a clandestine group of Southern Pride Marching Band members who have dubbed themselves, 'Southern Pride To-Go.' Each Friday before a Georgia Southern home football game, a small group of musicians raids restaurants and hangouts throughout Statesboro playing the fight songs and other popular tunes to get fans fired up for Saturday's game. I hope that you have a chance to see this tradition in person. [Read more...](#)



### **Alumni to Begin Production on 'Erk'**

Two Georgia Southern alumni recently announced plans to begin production on "Erk," a biopic about the life of legendary college football coach Erk Russell. Beau Turpin (producer) and James Kicklighter (director), will begin production on the film next summer. Plans call for the movie to be filmed in both Statesboro and Athens. I was pleased to welcome Coach Russell's sons, Jay and Rusty, back to Statesboro this past weekend to announce the film. Stay tuned for more on this exciting project. We're proud of both Beau and James and we will be looking forward to seeing the finished product. [Read more...](#)



### **Fall Family Weekend Set For Sept. 28-30**

Once again this year, Georgia Southern will be welcoming families of our students back to campus for our annual Fall Family Weekend. This event is a great time for parents to enjoy a weekend full of activities on campus while spending time with their students, and includes the University's first Friday Night Block Party. The unique event will include games, food, opportunities to interact with faculty and staff during an Academic Fair, and appearances by the Southern Pride Marching Band and Cheerleaders. The weekend culminates with a pre-game tailgate and cheering the Eagles to a victory versus Samford. [More info...](#)

## Botanical Garden Gets a New Name for 25th Anniversary

It is hard to believe, but Georgia Southern's Botanical Garden will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. As part of this milestone, the Garden is receiving a new name to reflect the Garden's growing reputation as a popular destination for tourists, schools and more.

The Garden will now be known as the Garden of the Coastal Plain at Georgia Southern University. The new name was chosen to support the Garden's mission, which focuses on the natural and cultural features of the southeastern coastal plain. [Read more...](#)

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